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July 7, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
US House of Representatives
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
US House of Representatives
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone:

Verizon supports the passage of "The 21st Century Cures Act" (HR 6). We believe this legislation will advance the science of medicine and encourage more effective use of health information technology in expanding access to care and innovations in care delivery.

Verizon provides health care benefits to over 700,000 people - employees, retirees, and their dependents. As a major employer, Verizon understands first-hand the power of connecting systems and devices, securely sharing information, and using decision support analytics. Your legislation will advance the use of these tools in the health care sector.

Today, the outmoded regulatory structure hinders the improvements in technological innovations that can bring cures to rare diseases and provide information to patients and doctors. Your bipartisan legislation will remove many of these barriers to innovations in research and clinical settings. We believe your bill is a step in the right direction for creating a regulatory framework, while responsibly creating more cost-effective methods of healthcare delivery.

In particular, we support the provisions that promote health information technology interoperability. Verizon has long supported the movement towards electronic health records and the particular need that they be interoperable. HR 6 addresses the gaps needed to move more rapidly to that vision. In addition, the Telemedicine report by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services should provide valuable information on the barriers confronting the wider use of telemedicine. The fragmented state by state nature of telemedicine regulations makes it difficult for a large national employer like Verizon to broadly promote the value of these services. Legislative clarity and streamlining of rules would make it easier for our employees, retirees and their dependents to utilize these benefits.

We urge the House to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter B. Davidson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.